

How can local
NETWORK GROWTH ECONOMY
serve to global degrowth?
(case study from India)

Adam Cajka

Department of Social Geography and Regional
Development

Charles University in Prague

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Outline

Context

Methodology

Network Growth Economy

Findings & challenges

Methodology & Frameworks

1. Diverse economies, Alternative economic spaces
(Leyshon 2003; Gibson-Graham 2010; Hillebrand, Zademach 2013)
2. Radical Ecological Democracy
(Kalpavriksh; Kothari, Shrivastava 2014)
3. Environmentalism of the poor
(Guha, Martinez-Alier 1997)

What is an alternative?

Initiatives (practical activities, political processes, technologies, concepts/frameworks) that are proposed by communities, government, companies, civil society organizations, individuals, with the following key features:

- 1. Ecological sustainability & resilience**
- 2. Social well-being & justice**
- 3. Direct democracy & participation**
- 4. Economic democracy & localization**

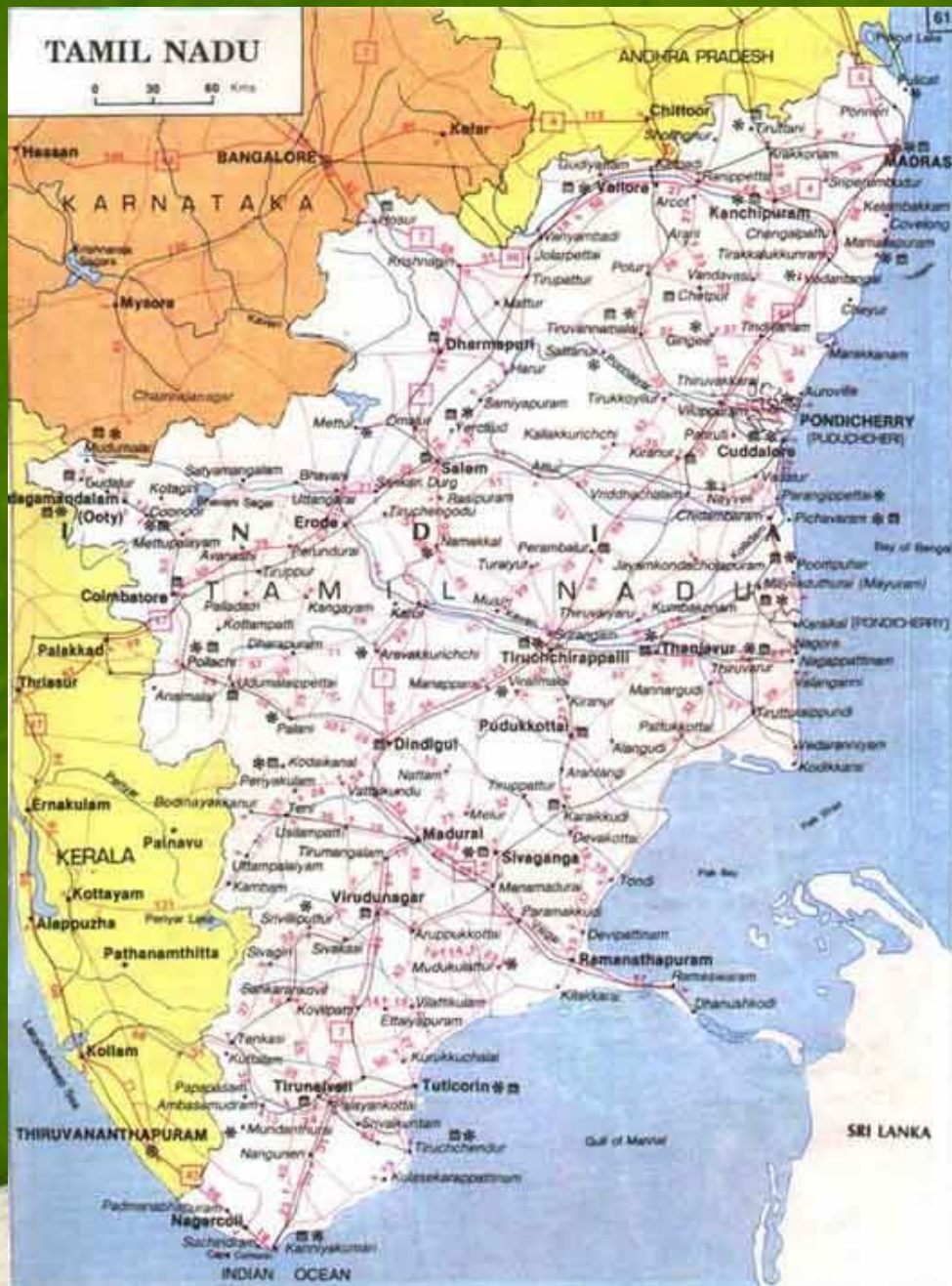
Source: Kalpavriksh.org

Alternative to what?

Growing cities, even more mobile people, and increasingly specialized products are integral to development. These changes have been most noticeable in North America, Western Europe, and Northeast Asia. But countries in East and South Asia and Eastern Europe are now experiencing changes that are similar in their scope and speed
(World Bank 2009: xix)

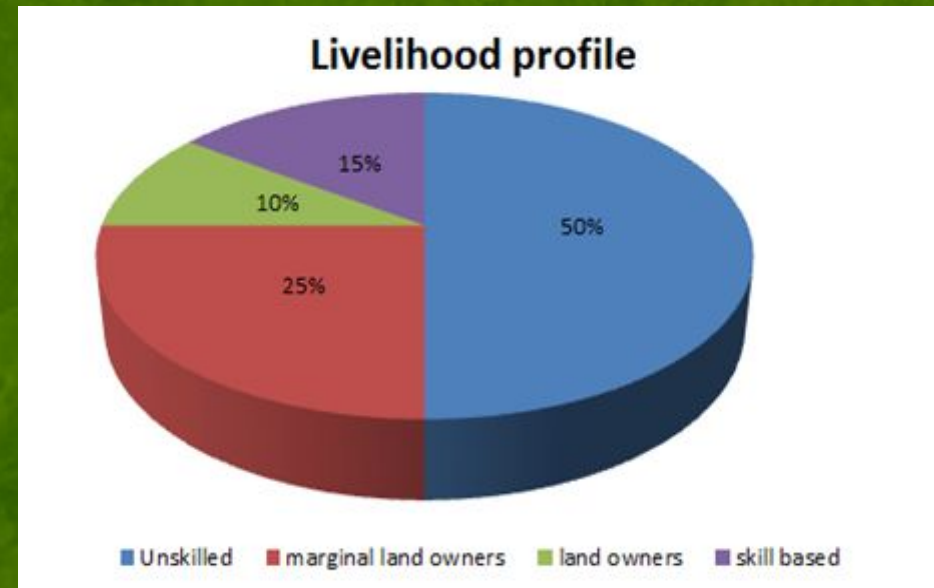
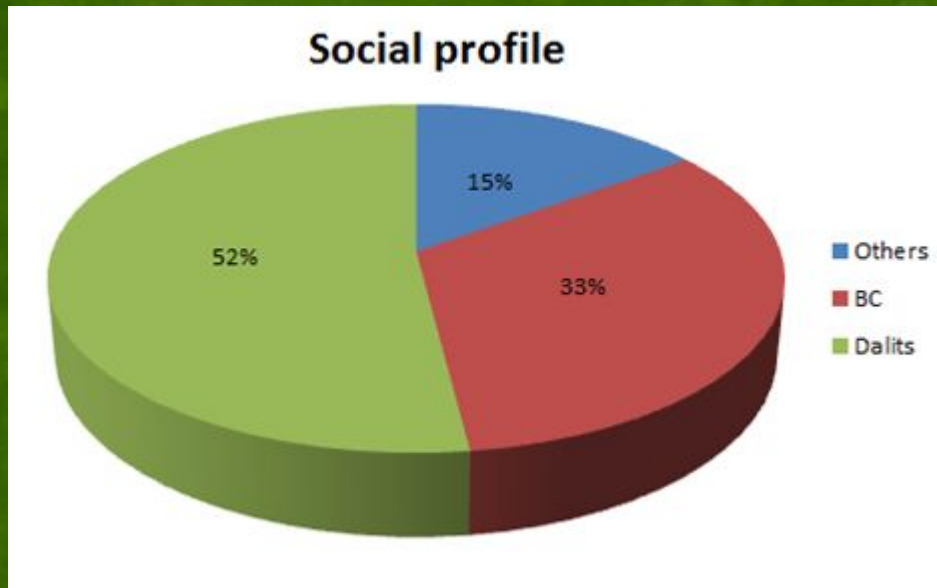
The World Bank report concludes that *such transformations will remain essential for economic success in other parts of the world and should be encouraged* (World Bank 2009: xix).

In general what brings economic success from this point of view is **mobile and flexible labour force and a dense and dynamic economic activity.**



Kuthambakkam panchayat

Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu
5600 inhabitants



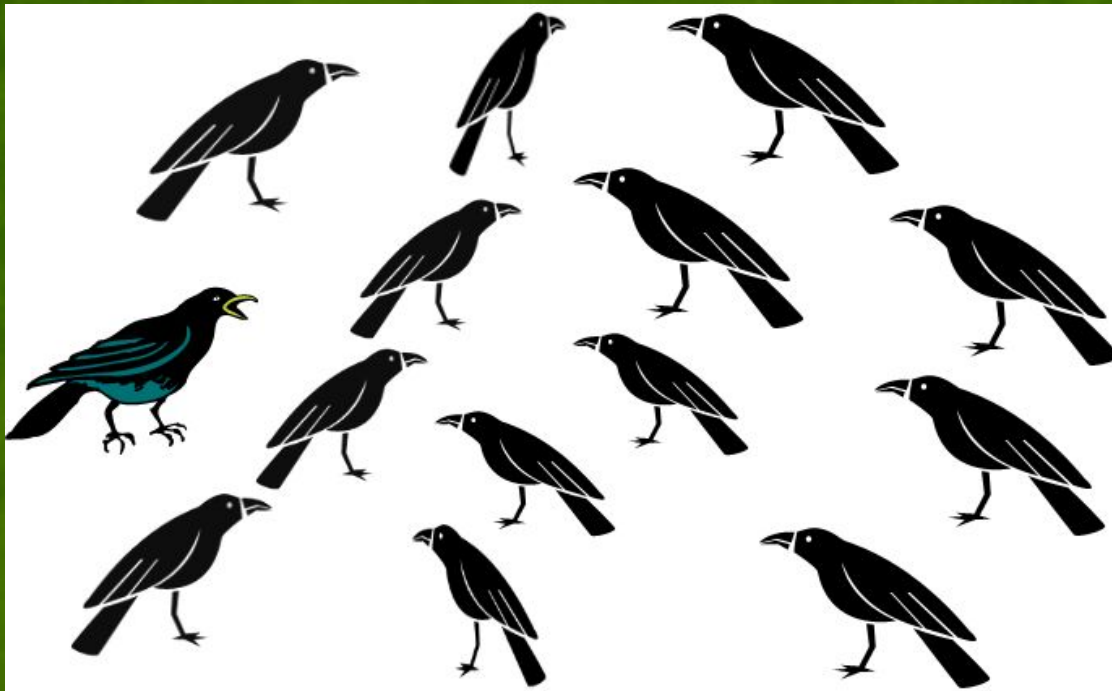
40 km from Chennai
development between 1996 and 2006

Projects in Kuthambakkam, 1996-2016

- Livelihoods based on local resources
- Innovative housing, Samathuvapuram
- Grass root level planning
- Solar energy solutions
- Employment creation through village activities
- Panchayat Academy
- **Network Growth Economy**

From Marx to Kumarappa and Gandhi

“Money economy does not report real values...the value of a rupee is different in different hands...what might be food for 4-5 days in the poor man's hands is the price of a cigar for the rich man.”



J.C.Kumarappa

List of village industries (20 village cluster)

FOOD ITEMS

- 1 Rice mills 8
- 2 Paddy processing units 60
- 3 Tur Dal (Yellow pulses) mill 8
- 4 Other type of Dal mills 1
- 5 Oil mill 8
- 6 Bakery items 3
- 7 Confectionery products 1
- 8 Flour mill 4
- 9 Miscellaneous items. 2
(e.g. Pickles, papad, masalas etc)
- 10 Milk processing 6
- 11 Tea packaging / coffee processing 2
- 12 Iodized Salt 1
- 13 Vegetables 2

COSMETIC AND TOILET ITEMS

- 1 Bathing Soaps 3
- 2 Washing Soaps/ Detergent 6
- 3 Tooth paste/ Tooth powder 1
- 4 Shampoo/ Shaving cream 1
- 5 Hair oils 1

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

- 1 Brick manufacturing units (VSBK) 1
- 2 Painting materials 1
- 3 Plastic recycling units for production
of road repairing materials 1
- 4 Tiles 1
- 5 Mud Blocks 3
- 6 Pre cast materials/ cement water tanks 2

List of village industries (20 village cluster)

OTHER

- 1 Tailoring 2
- 2 Cloth processing e.g. pillow covers, bed sheets etc. 3
- 3 Candles, Incense 2
- 4 Paper recycling units 2
- 5 Cattle feed 2
- 6 Weaving 4
- 7 Electrical gadgets 2
- 8 School Note books 1
- 9 School bags/ shopping bags 1
- 10 Compost from waste organic 10
- 11 Food Processing (Jams, squash, 2
- 12 Furniture, carpentry 1
- 13 Ornaments (Silver & gold) 1

14 Stencils 1

15 Plastic products 1

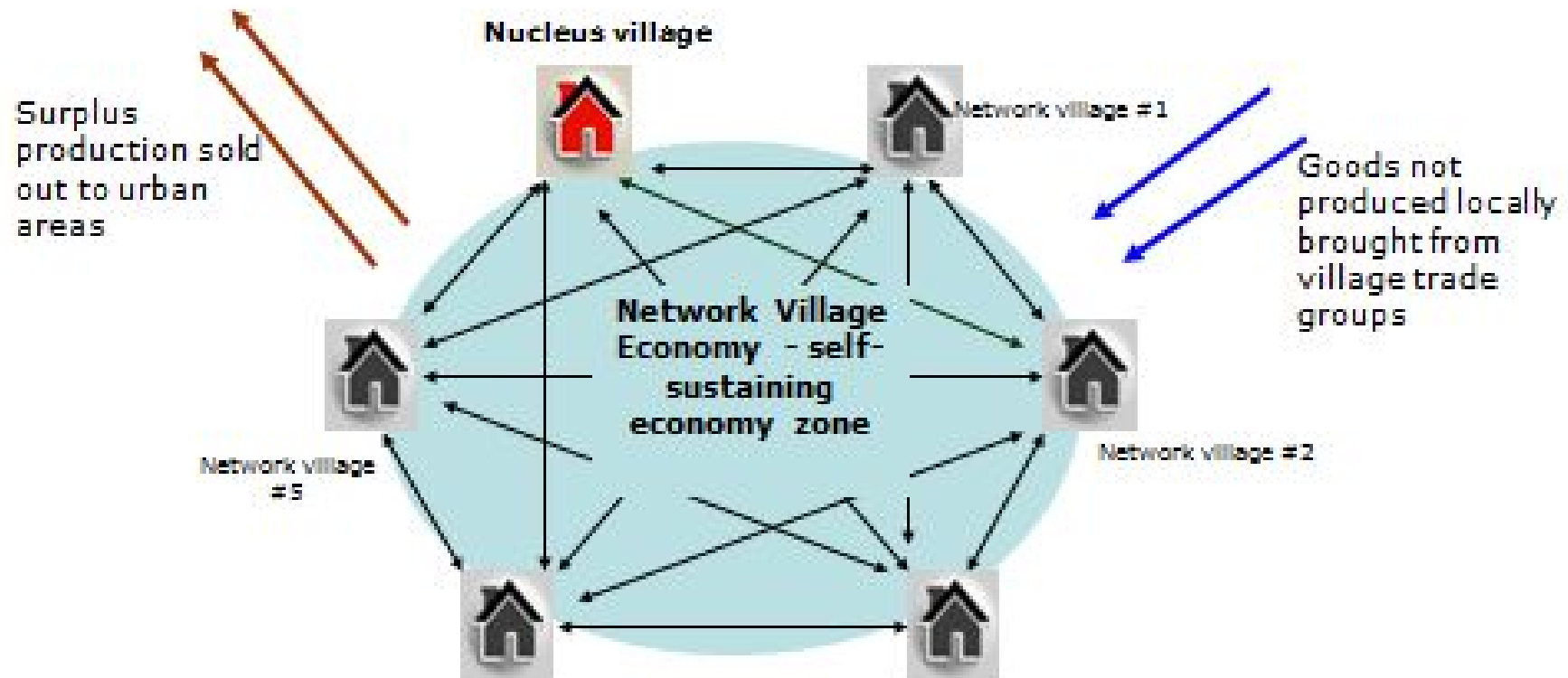
16 Plastic recycling 1

17 Battery Production units 1

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- 1 Transport operators for raw / finish goods 5
- 2 Electric repairs 2
- 3 Auto repairs 2
- 4 Taxi services 3
- 5 Internet café/STD shop 1
- 6 Trading shops (3 per village) 45

Network growth economy model:



Key references

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Thank you

cajkaa@natur.cuni.cz